

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (new) A process for producing an anaesthetic bone cement composition comprising combining a bone cement with an effective amount up to about 5% by weight of a local anaesthetic agent.
3. (new) The process of claim 2, comprising combining:
 - (a) a liquid monomeric (meth)acrylate;
 - (b) a powder comprising at least one of a homopolymer and a copolymer of methyl methacrylate;
 - (c) an effective amount of a polymerization initiator; and
 - (d) said local anaesthetic agent.
4. (new) The process of claim 2, further comprising gas sterilizing said bone cement composition.
5. (new) The process of claim 2, further comprising irradiating or gas sterilizing said bone cement composition.
6. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein said local anaesthetic agent is at least one anaesthetic agent selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, bupivacaine, prilocaine and tetracaine.
7. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein said local anaesthetic agent is in a chemical form selected from the group consisting of acid and base, and in a physical form selected from the group consisting of solid and liquid.
8. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein said local anaesthetic agent comprises a combination of at least two local anaesthetic agents selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, bupivacaine, prilocaine, and tetracaine.

9. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein the anaesthetic agents included in said combination of at least two local anaesthetic agents are provided in at least two different forms selected from the group consisting of acid, base, solid, and liquid.

10. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein the anaesthetic agents included in the combination of at least two local anaesthetic agents are provided in the same form selected from the group consisting of acid, base, solid, and liquid.

11. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein said local anaesthetic agent is a liquid.

12. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein said local anaesthetic agent is a solid.

13. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein said local anaesthetic agent is an acid.

14. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein said local anaesthetic agent is a base.

15. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein said local anaesthetic agent is present in an amount between about 0.007% and about 5% by weight of said anaesthetic bone cement composition.

16. (new) The process of claim 2, wherein said local anaesthetic agent is present in an amount up to about 2.5% by weight of said anaesthetic bone cement composition.

17. (new) The process of claim 3, further comprising combining therewith a radiopacifier.

18. (new) The process of claim 3, wherein said polymerization initiator is an organic peroxy compound.

19. (new) The process of claim 18, wherein said organic peroxy compound is benzoyl peroxide.